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Halifax's New Music Mix



Halifax metr



ROUND 2 PREVIEW
P.29

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, APRIL 10-12, 2015

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‘This drives a stake through the heart of the film industry.’

**Marc Almon,
Screen Nova Scotia chairman**



BUDGET DAY IN NOVA SCOTIA

- **Reasoning and reaction**
PG 4
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PG 5
- **Democracy gets the boot**
PG 6

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IN BRIEF

'Snow' getting away with stealing in case of missing plows

There's snow getting away with theft in this case.

Halifax Regional Police said Thursday they've charged five people following several thefts of snow clearing equipment such as salt spreaders and truck-mounted plows from businesses and residences across the region since early December.

Police dubbed the investigation, which included vehicles stolen overnight and later dumped without their plows, Operation Snowman.

Investigators also recovered almost \$300,000 worth of stolen vehicles and snow-clearing equipment.

Officers arrested four men and one woman last month.

Helen Joan Goldie, 42, of Williamswood; Jeffery Wayne Jollimore, 31, of Shad Bay; John Alvin Lively, 37, of Harrietsfield; Stephen Welsford Jollimore, 51, of Terence Bay and a 36-year-old man from Williamswood who has yet to be named in court, all face charges ranging from possession of stolen property to theft of motor vehicle. They are set to appear in Halifax provincial court at a later date to face a total of 39 combined criminal charges.

METRO

March for Rehtaeh gives voice to sex crime victims

AWARENESS

'I just can't be quiet about this' says father of late teen



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Glen Canning remembers just wanting to die, in the weeks after his daughter's death.

Canning lost his 17-year-old daughter, Rehtaeh Parsons, to suicide on April 7, 2013.

Soon after, the world came to know her death as a tragedy that began with a sexual assault at a high school party and was followed by years of relentless bullying at the hands of classmates and indifference by authorities.

But before everyone came to know her name, Canning said, he "closed the blinds and locked the doors" on his life.

Then one day, he turned on his television and saw images of people — complete strangers — standing in Victoria Park in Halifax, holding photographs of his daughter.



We're walking for her memory, for her life and to give voice to other victims of sexual violence.

Glen Canning



Glen Canning holds a picture of his daughter Rehtaeh Parsons in this file photo from last December. Rae's Awareness Memorial Walk takes place for the second year this weekend. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"I looked at that and I said, 'I just can't be quiet about this. This is not what Rehtaeh would want,'" he said on Thursday.

Preserving his daughter's memory and giving a voice to all victims of sexual assault continues to be the meaning Canning sees behind Rae's Awareness Memorial Walk, taking place for the second year this weekend.

Canning believes it's the overwhelming sense of injustice

people feel towards victims of sexual violence, not just his daughter, which resonates so strongly.

The two young men charged in Parsons' case have since been in court and were handed different probation sentences, which Canning believes only deepens the sense of injustice.

"What's done is done. We just have to try to find some meaning in her death and in her life and hope that we can help other people," he said Thursday.

Rae's Awareness Memorial Walk takes place this Saturday. It begins at 1 p.m. in the parking lot behind Cole Harbour Place.

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ANALYSIS

Turnout isn't always a turn on

While some parties at the provincial and federal level want to increase voter turnout, it's not on the agenda for others, says another political expert.

"It's not particularly in the partisan interests of conservative parties to have higher voter turnout, because high voter turnout would mean more young people voting," St. Francis Xavier University political scientist Dr. Jim Bickerton said on Thursday.

Young people, he said, are more likely to support parties on the center-left.



It's not part of their universe.

Dr. Jim Bickerton

"It's not that their non-voting is a protest against the system; rather, it's just that they don't pay attention to politics. It's not part of their universe, their world, not part of their peer-group discussion. And as a result they're just tuned out, rather than turned off."

Voter turnout for people over 45 is high — it's young people and low-income families that's a problem for jurisdictions not just in Canada, but also across the western world, he said.

When the Harper government passed Bill C-23, or The Fair Elections Act, it took away Election Canada's role of promoting voting through the chief elections officer. The bill faced controversy last year but it has since blown over, Bickerton said.

JULIA MANOUKIAN/METRO

Education part of effort to get more people voting

POLITICS

How do we get people to the municipal ballot boxes?

Julia Manoukian
For Metro | Halifax

There's always been a sharp discrepancy between voter turnout at the municipal level and those at the provincial and federal levels, and the reasons are twofold, says a Halifax professor.

"On the one hand, there's a sense on one hand that municipalities aren't as important as governments... on the other hand there's more effort needed on the part of voters to actually make an informed choice, because candidates are running as independents," Dalhousie University political scientist Dr. Kristen Cook said on Thursday.

"I definitely think more could be done. Whether or not that's up to government is another question."

On Saturday, the public will have a chance to share their thoughts on what the city can do to increase voter turnout in

+ AGENDA

The times and topics for Saturday's panels at the Halifax Central Library:

Youth and new voters: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Accessibility and voting methods: 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
How can voters engage in an election: 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

the 2016 municipal election.

The series of three panels will be held at the Halifax Central

Library starting at 11 a.m., and will discuss engaging youth and new voters, accessibility and voting methods, and participant roles in the electoral process.

"It really is about an open dialogue with the panelists and with the public," said organizer Lori McKinnon.

In the last municipal election held in 2012, 37 per cent of registered voters cast a ballot. The city used social media, advertising and registration locations at universities during the advanced voting period in an effort to increase turnout.

In the last federal election held in 2011, 62 per cent of eli-

gible Nova Scotians voted.

Statistics Canada has since reported the most common reason for not voting was the candidates and party platforms turned them off.

This year, the conversation will include things such as on-line voting.

McKinnon doesn't have exact figures, but she estimates about 14 Nova Scotia municipalities used e-voting in their last election.

"For us it's about educating the voter," she said.

There will be a webcast of the event for those who can't make it and wish to participate.



Now Mayor Mike Savage campaigns in this file photo from the 2012 mayoralty campaign. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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“



This is not a haircut. This is a virtual decapitation.

Geoff D'Eon, Pilot Light Productions

“



Blaming ... the finances of the province on public-sector wages is completely inappropriate.

Janet Hazelton, Nova Scotia Nurses' Union president

“



Had they held the line on spending ... we'd have a balanced budget this year.

Rob Batherson, Halifax Chamber of Commerce vice-chairman

“



What the Nova Scotia Liberals have chosen to do is disregard students.

Michaela Sam, Canadian Federation of Students Nova Scotia



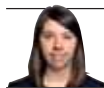
Finance Minister Diana Whalen heads from a briefing on the Nova Scotia budget on Thursday, at the legislature in Halifax.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget cuts draw fire

FINANCE

Liberals defend tough choices to keep deficit down



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The province's finance minister says cuts to the public sector, loosening tuition regulations and changing the film tax credit in the new budget may not be popular, but it is necessary for the bottom line.

On Thursday, Diana Whalen delivered the \$10-billion budget for 2015-16 that

0.8
The rise in spending percentage wise for Health, the smallest increase in a decade.

carries a \$97.6-million deficit and includes a forewarned cut to the film tax credit that brought out anger and frustration from the industry.

"This is a budget that holds the line on spending," Whalen said as she delivered the plan.

"It was not easy to put together."

The budget keeps the \$24-million film tax credit for this year in a restructured form, but it reduces the credit

to \$6 million next year — or about 25 per cent of a film production's costs.

"This drives a stake through the heart of the film industry," Screen Nova Scotia chair Marc Almon told reporters.

Almon said while Whalen promised there would be a "tomorrow" for the film industry, "there is no tomorrow. This is it."

Another \$6 million will go to a new creative economy fund through Nova Scotia Business Inc. next April, but Almon said by then the film industry as we know it will be gone.

The film tax credit changes start July 1, which Almon said is not nearly enough time for the industry to adapt. Production companies will see Nova

Scotia as an undesirable place to do business, he said, affecting 2,700 people employed here and turning away "millions and millions" of dollars.

"We simply cannot afford to maintain the credit in its current form," Whalen said. Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said the budget was a "missed opportunity" for the Liberals.

NDP Leader Maureen MacDonald said it's "completely unrealistic" to imagine the Liberals can keep spending to less than one per cent when there's already a nursing shortage and wait times are growing "exponentially" for home and senior care.

"This is a very serious problem," MacDonald said.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

“



We don't know what the final costs are ... because they're kicking a lot of the budget items down the road.

Kevin Lacey, Atlantic director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

“



Those people living in poverty are getting nothing out of this budget.

Christine Saulnier, Nova Scotia director for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

“



(The film tax credit) still exists.... The only thing that's changed is how it's paid out.

Premier Stephen McNeil

“



We've had members today escorted out of their workplaces.

Joan Jessome, NSGEU president

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6 topics you need to know about

On Thursday, Nova Scotia Finance Minister Diana Whalen tabled a new budget that projects a deficit of \$97.6 million. Below are highlights on how the 2015-16 budget will impact jobs, health, education, taxes, arts and departmental structuring.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA



Marc Almon, chairman of Screen Nova Scotia, centre, reacts to the provincial budget while flanked by writer-producers Mike Volpe, left, and Geoff D'Eon at Province House Thursday.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

1 JOB LOSSES

Cutting labour costs is one way the province aims to reduce government spending in the new budget.

The province will eliminate 320 full-time public-servant positions, mainly through attrition and vacancies as part of a new program review that hopes to save \$119 million.

On Thursday, 163 full-time and seasonal workers received layoff notices as a part of the restructuring.

The cuts come on the heels of an earlier announcement by Whalen that a three-year wage freeze would be imposed on non-union civil-service employees and a permanent freeze placed on public-service awards.

Overall, the Department of Health and Wellness's spending will rise 0.8 per cent — the smallest increase in more than 10 years.

Five other department budgets have shrunk compared to last year.

2 HEALTH

Of the department's \$4-billion budget, \$2 million will go to shortening orthopedic-surgery wait times, resulting in 450 more surgeries.

The eligible age to receive funding for an insulin pump for those with diabetes will rise to 25 from 19.

School vaccinations will be expanded, starting with more meningococcal meningitis vaccines, along with the introduction of the quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine in schools.

An HPV vaccine for Grade 7 boys will be introduced.

Parents with preschool-aged children with autism spectrum disorder will be provided with early intensive behaviour intervention before their kids enter school.

Another \$700,000 will be invested to expand the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program to two more areas.

Home-care services will also receive an additional \$3.8-million.

3 TAXES

Much to the dismay of many film groups, the province has reduced the tax credit to cover 25 per cent of a production's costs. Before this change, the tax credit cost the province \$24 million. Now, it will spend only \$6 million.

Tobacco taxes will also increase by two per cent as of Friday, meaning smokers will have to pay 50 cents more for each pack of cigarettes.

The healthy-living tax credit has been slashed. It provided parents with a tax credit of up to \$500 per child to offset the cost of registering children in sports.

The out-of-province university bursary is gone.

Despite speculation, HST rebates on kids' clothing, shoes and diapers, feminine-hygiene products and printed books, and the affordable living tax credit remain untouched.

4 EDUCATION

One of the biggest impacts the new budget has for post-secondary students is the elimination of the cap on university tuition increases for out-of-province and grad students who plan to study in Nova Scotia.

The province will grant schools a one-time market adjustment to tuition before the current three per cent cap on tuition is increased. University operating grants will also increase by \$3.2 million.

Through the Nova Scotia Loan Forgiveness Program, local students who study here can have up to \$15,000 of their provincial loans forgiven.

Increasing math and reading levels took top priority in public schools. Math initiatives will receive \$3 million in funding and an early invention plan will be offered in math for students in grades primary to 3.

Early literary programs will also receive an increase of \$973,000.

5 ARTS

In total, the Liberals plan to invest \$70 million into the province's arts and culture.

That includes a \$14-million investment in libraries and \$10 million for operational funding and programming, such as museums and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Direct culture and heritage programming will receive an additional \$12.5 million, including \$2.6 million for Arts Nova Scotia.

Under the new budget, \$24 million is slated for the film industry tax credit, as well as \$7.5 for the digital media tax credit.

A new \$6-million creative economy fund has been promised for next April, which means good news for artists in film, animation, music and sound recording.

Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia has also been eliminated.

6 PROGRAM CUTS

As foreshadowed by Premier Stephen McNeil, the new budget has restructured departmental programs to curb the province's spending.

Program reviews will now become a permanent part of government to increase cost-saving efforts.

On such change includes the elimination of the Department of Economics and Development and Tourism, and the creation of new a Department of Business, which will work more closely with the private sector. The Nova Scotia Gateway Office will also be eliminated, as will the Environmental Home Assessment program.

To save further costs, seven campgrounds will be converted into self-use parks and will no longer be serviced by staff. Visitor information centres in both Digby and Pictou will also be closed.

Legislature exceeds capacity as public gathers for budget speech

POLITICS

Deficient access was 'unacceptable,' resident says



Ruth Davenport
Metro | Halifax

Increased scrutiny of the provincial budget is being blamed for a turn of events that left dozens of people literally out in the cold Thursday.

"I thought it was called Province House, for the people of the province," said an annoyed Rollie Thompson on Thursday, after being told to leave the legislature lobby. "It's a first."

Members of the public who wanted to watch the delivery of the budget speech or who wanted to be on hand to offer reaction to the media started lining up in the legislature lobby just after noon when the commissionaires ran out of visitor passes.

The lineup grew over the next 90 minutes, doubling back on itself and packing the holding area next to the security checkpoint.

When members of the media joined the crowd to interview members of stakeholder groups after the budget speech, security personnel ushered everyone outside.

"This is completely unacceptable," one woman told a sympathetic commissionaire in the parking lot, echoing the sentiments of others in the crowd, many of whom



Visitors react to Halifax Regional Police as they remove people waiting in line for a pass into the Nova Scotia legislature on Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

This building belongs to all the people of Nova Scotia, whether they agree with the government or the government agrees with them.

PC Party Leader Jamie Baillie

said they'd attended previous budgets without issue.

Former NDP MLA and finance minister Graham Steele suggested the confusion was due to new security regula-

tions.

"It just looks like somebody hasn't thought through how that fits with budget day, which is a different kind of day," he said. "I'm sure it's go-

ing to be fixed by next year, but it sure doesn't make the legislature look too good."

House Speaker Kevin Murphy said there had been no changes in security and said the 150 visitor passes available for members of the public simply ran out sooner than in previous years.

"We normally have a little bump in attendance for



People listen to the budget inside the legislature on Thursday afternoon. JEFF HARPER/METRO

budgets, but there was more people here today than normal," he said. "And unfortunately, where it is first come first served, there's not a lot we can do about that."

The leaders of both opposition parties said the denial of public access on budget day was unacceptable.

NDP Leader Maureen MacDonald, who said she'd "never seen anything like it," called a lack of public access a violation of her privilege as a member of the legislature.

"It is, I think, the privilege of the people in the house to have an open house, a house

that's accessible, a house that people can actually come and see their members working on their behalf," she said. "They pay us our salaries but they can't get in to see what's going on."



Today, it was just lots of interest in what's going on, and it's unfortunate that we have these kinds of guidelines.

Kevin Murphy, Speaker of the House of Assembly

150

There are 150 visitor passes available at the provincial legislature.

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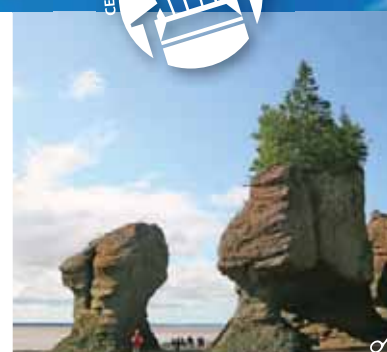
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NORTH PARK-COGSWELL

Street closures for roundabout to start

Those who usually travel past the North Common will have to adjust their route starting this weekend.

According to a city release, street closures for construction of the North Park-Cogswell roundabout begin Sunday and involve the intersection of North Park, Cogswell, Rainnie, Trollope and Ahern streets.

Starting at 7 a.m., North Park Street (between Cornwallis and Cogswell streets) and Cogswell Street (between North Park and Bauer streets) will be closed to all vehicle traffic and parking.

The block of Cogswell Street between Bauer and Gottingen streets will also be closed to through traffic starting Sunday.

Crews will accommodate local traffic on that block only, the release said. The first phase of closures is expected to last

until early June.

The sidewalks on North Park and Cogswell streets will be removed during construction as well, but staff on site will accommodate pedestrians who live in the area, the release said.

Halifax Transit buses that normally travel on North Park and Cogswell streets will be detouring around the construction. For specific information on affected routes, people should go to Halifax Transit's service disruptions page.

Last year, work focused on construction of the nearby Cunard Street roundabout that opened in November.

Like Cunard Street, the release said the Cogswell intersection must be upgraded since it "no longer meets national transportation standards."

For more information on the redesign, go to halifax.ca.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Cars head through the Cogswell Street intersection last year.

JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE



Kiyan Sobhani pours Three Flower Burst tea on Thursday, at the Humani-T Cafe. ERNESTO CARRANZA/FOR METRO

Steep yourself in tea

TRY A SAMPLE

Festival will showcase more than 80 diverse blends

Ernesto Carranza
For Metro | Halifax

Kiyan Sobhani smiled Thursday as he watched three flowers bloom from the green bud he had steeped in hot water.

Yes, the tea experience has certainly come a long way.

"Tea is so diverse," said Sobhani, who manages Humani-T Café in Halifax. "You can start with two very different flavours and create a completely new tea."

Humani-T Café's popular Three Flower Burst tea is one of the many offerings that will be showcased at the Halifax Tea Festival, this weekend at the Halifax Music Co-op.

Sobhani said the Humani-T Café would be exhibiting more than 80 different blends for people to sample.

Sobhani said he was glad Halifax was catching up with tea culture with a festival like this. "I think people really enjoy

the nutritional and medicinal properties tea has, as an alternative to coffee," he said. "Obviously, coffee is still widely popular but tea has a lot of potential for taste and for personal health."

Event organizer Ashton Rodenhiser is also a big fan of tea.

"It is such a social thing and I really enjoy community development and event planning. Tea is a great way to bring people together and explore healthier options," Rodenhiser said.

Rodenhiser expects a few hundred people to show up and take part in the festival

and said the event has been shared multiple times through social media.

"This is a good opportunity to connect with the people that make tea in Halifax and take part in the culture around tea," she said.

+ DETAILS

The festival runs Saturday and Sunday at the Halifax Music Co-op from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

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COLCHESTER COUNTY

Man, woman face trafficking charges

A drug bust at a Nova Scotia home this week netted four pounds of marijuana, cannabis oil, drug paraphernalia and cash, a RCMP spokesman says.

"A seizure of this size is significant for Colchester County and rural Nova Scotia as a whole," said Cpl. David Simpson in a news release.

"In this case, police were able to intercept this product before it was broken down and distributed to the local area."

As well, a 2013 Yamaha motorcycle — reported stolen last May — was also recovered at the residence on Tuesday.

Two males and one female were arrested without incident at the residence.

A 22-year-old Masstown man is facing charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of property obtained by crime.

Simpson said the man, who was not identified, was on house arrest at the time of the search and as a result has



Drugs and cash seized by police. HANDOUT

been remanded into custody.

He is scheduled to appear at provincial court in Truro on July 29, along with a 46-year-old woman who was also arrested at the scene. She is facing charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking.

A 23-year-old Londonderry man who was also at the scene was later released from custody without charges.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

PICTOU COUNTY

Date set for murder conviction appeal

A full day has been set aside in November to hear Christopher Falconer's appeal of his first-degree murder conviction.

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal will hear the Pictou County man's appeal on Nov. 12 in Halifax.

He was convicted of first-degree murder in January 2014 in relation to the death of 19-year-old Amber Kirwan.

Falconer has represented himself in the appeal process and filed his application on the grounds that the jury didn't have reasonable evidence to convict him and that he should have had a change of venue.

The trial ran three weeks and included a large amount of forensic evidence as well as testimony from family and friends of both Kirwan and Falconer. Falconer was given an automatic sentence of life in prison with no parole eligibility for 25 years.

The jury was told that Kirwan went missing Oct. 9, 2011, from downtown New Glasgow after she left a group of friends standing outside Dooly's pool hall. Her remains were found off a wooded logging road in Heathbell, Pictou County, on Nov. 5, 2011.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS



The Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project will provide electricity for the Maritime Link. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Emera and Mi'kmaq sign Link agreement

HYDROELECTRICITY

Deal gives communities fair access to contracts

It's taken what one native leader called a long four years, but Emera and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia signed an agreement Thursday granting Aboriginal Peoples greater involvement in the development of the Maritime Link.

The socio-economic agreement allows Mi'kmaq leaders to environmentally monitor the construction of the subsea cable, increases workforce capacity

for Mi'kmaq communities, and gives Mi'kmaq companies fair and equal access to contracts on the project.

"There's a size and a scale to the Maritime Link that necessitates an agreement of this nature," said Rick Janega, president and CEO of Emera in Newfoundland and Labrador. "The projects we've done previously in Nova Scotia really didn't have the same magnitude."

Although all parties involved in the development of the Maritime Link say the Mi'kmaq have been involved in the project since its inception in 2011, Thursday's announcement marked a formal agreement with the group.

"We want to make sure that

whatever agreement we are able to come up with, the (Mi'kmaq) communities are also on board with that. So it takes a while," said Chief Terry Paul, co-chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs.

Concerns had been raised about the environmental impact the link would have.

"You're going through sensitive waters and land, and we were very concerned about the fish habitat ... but at the end of it we're very happy," said Paul, adding that all his concerns had been addressed by Emera.

Several Mi'kmaq companies are already being contracted to work on the almost \$1.6 billion Maritime Link, which Janega said

+ BACKGROUND

Maritime Link

The link is expected to be complete in 2017, and will transmit hydroelectricity from the island of Newfoundland to Nova Scotia, connecting Newfoundland and Labrador to the North American transmission grid for the first time. That electricity will come from the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project.

will provide 300 jobs a year in Nova Scotia.

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Local psychic Contessa Crystal peers into her crystal ball during 2012's psychic fair. METRO FILE

Fair all about 'gut instinct': Medium

PSYCHIC FAIR

Popular event happening this weekend at Halifax Forum

Madison Blanchard
Metro | Halifax

Just as some have an aptitude for mathematics, others have a natural ability with the spirit world, says a local medium.

Rev. Eileen Casey Gonzalez of Halifax, a medium and ordained minister, said the ability is more common than people think.

"I mean, who hasn't had a gut feeling at some point?" she said.

Mediumship is taking gut feeling and using your natural abilities to communicate with those who have passed on, Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said she had been aware of her abilities from a young age but was fearful of them and learned early on not to speak about it.

"There was no one around to guide me, which is not uncommon," said Gonzalez, who's taking part in the Halifax Psychic Fair this weekend.

She eventually found her way to embracing her ability and helping people connect with individuals pass on, a lot of the time for closure.

"It can be one of the most beautiful things that can ever happen," she said.

She cautions, however, against mediums who answer all questions they are asked.

"A good medium doesn't cook it — we serve it," she said.

This means whatever information is needed will come forward, but not necessarily the in-

formation you want, Gonzalez said.

If people go to see a medium and get a negative response, Gonzalez said not to accept it because mediums are there to help and do not have the expertise, especially in medical or finance matters.

Gonzalez is one of many who will be at the fair, speaking on Saturday and Sunday at the Halifax Forum.

The Spirit Science Fellowship is organizing the event, and admission is \$8 per day or \$15 dollars for both Saturday and Sunday.

Rev. Michael Hiltz of the Spirit Science Fellowship said people will see many different vendors — from those who use tarot cards, to those who specialize in rune stones.

"There will be lots of different things," he said.

“

A good medium doesn't cook it — we serve it

Eileen Casey Gonzalez

Airport opens main runway, nearly two weeks after crash

The main runway at Halifax's airport has been cleared to reopen with some limitations on its use after a plane crash almost two weeks ago took it out of service.

Halifax Stanfield International Airport officials said they planned to open the run-

way on Thursday night, but didn't elaborate on what limitations on operations will remain in effect.

The runway has been cleaned, undergone an environmental assessment, passed a surface test, and had its lighting systems checked

and verified. The airport says more work needs to be done before the runway is fully in service, because Nav Canada hasn't had time to bring an antenna array that was damaged in the crash back into service.

There is no timetable for

the runway to return to full service.

All the passengers and crew survived when Air Canada Flight 624 crashed March 29 as it landed at the airport in a snowstorm.

The Airbus A320 was flying from Toronto when it slammed

into the ground about 335 metres short of the runway, then skidded for another 335 metres before stopping.

There were 133 passengers and five crew on board the plane. Twenty-three people were taken to hospital for treatment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ DETAIL

Investigation

The accident is being investigated by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CRASH!

WHAT CAN I SAY? I LIED. SORRY...

Nova Scotian taking her Living Titanic to Belfast

HISTORY

Rosalee Peppard helps bring a voice to the tragedy

It was an opportunity Rosalee Peppard jumped at — to take her Living Titanic to where it all began.

Peppard is currently in Belfast for the International Titanic Convention as part of a small delegation of the Titanic Society of Atlantic Canada. She and the society's president have also been asked to speak, and she will also perform her piece thanks to an invitation from the Belfast Titanic Society.

"It is important for me to be here to be sharing an authentic eye-witness voice representing Nova Scotian history from a woman's perspective and to learn from other international Titanic experts," she wrote in a text message from Ireland.

"And it's my first trip to Ireland where the Peppards came from in 1764 — and settled in Great Village 10 years later."

Peppard will present her Living Titanic on Saturday on the SS NOMADIC.

"It's the only White Star Line boat left in the world and worked as Titanic's tender boat," she said. "It was painstakingly restored and is dry-docked beside the new Belfast Titanic museum."



Rosalee Peppard shown dressed for a Titanic event last year. METRO FILE PHOTO

To be here on site where Titanic was born and to be representing our homemade connections is a great honour and thrill.

Rosalee Peppard

Her memoir tells the story of Atlantic Canada's only survivor — Halifax's Hilda Mary Slayter and comes complete

with couturier costume created by Peppard's sister, Lark.

"I wanted to share Living Titanic because until I created

it, our "unsinkable" heroine Hilda was relatively unknown outside of Halifax in the Titanic story. Now, I am proud to say her voice is finally heard internationally."

Peppard said the performance came about after meeting a delegation from Belfast last year when they visited Halifax.

Along with the performance as part of the convention, Pe-

ppard has been asked by the museum to join in its commemoration on April 14 — the 103rd anniversary.

She will perform a scene from Living Titanic as Hilda in the lifeboat.

"I will actually replace the actor who, since 2012, has portrayed the unsinkable Molly Brown," Peppard added.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

SPRING MELT

Oxford at risk of flooding: Official

Mike Johnson looks closely at the open water spreading along the River Philip as it winds through Oxford.

"Just a couple days ago, that was still frozen solid," said Johnson, the emergency measures organization co-ordinator for Cumberland County.

Johnson has visited Oxford several times in recent days, checking the water levels on the Black River and the River Philip, and has been pleased to see a steady melting of ice and snow accompanied by normal water levels.

But it will not take much to change that.

"I can't emphasize enough, the longer we go into April without having a lot of this snow drop away, the more at risk we are of having a major flood," said Johnson. "

Typically, one would expect about 80 to 100 millimetres of water equivalency in the snow at this time of year, according to Johnson. Last December, when there were beginnings of flood conditions in Oxford, the measurement was 93 mm.

"So we have three times the amount of water now then we had in December, when we had as much as eight inches of water over the road on the other side of the bridge that goes by town hall," he said.

So far, Mother Nature has been kind, with cooler temperatures than normal for April. The thermometer has been rising to 5 to 6 C during the day, and then dropping back below zero at night, resulting in gradual melting and release of water in the snow.

That could soon change, however, as about 15 mm of rain is expected over Friday and Saturday, along with a warm-up to 10 C and consistent above-zero temperatures for the next four to five days.

CUMBERLAND NEWS

"I can't emphasize enough, the longer we go into April without having a lot of this snow drop away, the more at risk we are of having a major flood."

Mike Johnson, emergency measures organization coordinator

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BEAR RIVER

Abandoned house burns to the ground

The quick response of four fire departments kept a house fire in Nova Scotia from spreading to a neighbouring home.

A Bear River resident from the east side of the river called 911 to report seeing the flames, they thought near the Bear River post office.

Bear River, Digby, Annapolis and Smith's Cove fire departments responded to the structure fire on Pleasant Street about 1:30 a.m. on Thursday.

The two-storey house had been vacant for years and residents say the last few storms had opened the house up to the elements.

The structure was fully involved when firefighters arrived and flames were threatening a neighbouring home.

Firefighters sprayed water on the neighbouring home while extinguishing the fire.

When the burning building collapsed, the north wall — closest to the neighbouring house — slowly fell outward and came to rest against the next-door home, shielding at least part of the structure from the flames.

The abandoned house burnt completely to the ground and the neighbouring home suffered some exterior damage to the siding and power lines.

Firefighters were on the scene until about 6 a.m.

Bear River fire chief Darryl Jelfs says he has called the fire marshal and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

DIGBY COURIER



The Halifax-based duo The Town Heroes win Group Recording of the Year with Sunday Movies at the 2015 East Coast Music Awards Gala Thursday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS/PAUL DALY

Halifax has its musical Heroes

ECMA AWARDS

Sunday Movies a hit while In-Flight Safety bags top album

Halifax rock groups In-Flight Safety and the Town Heroes were among the bands who scored big Thursday evening at the East Coast Music Awards in Torbay, N.L., just outside St. John's.

In-Flight Safety walked away with Album of the Year for Conversationalist while group recording of the year went to the Town Heroes for Sunday Movies.

Newfoundland rock outfit Hey Rosetta took song of the year with Kintsukuroi.

Kim Harris, originally from Newfoundland and now based in Halifax, won rising star recording of the year for her song, Only The Mighty.

To the right is a list of all of the award-winning artists from Thursday night.

THE WINNERS

- **Album of the Year:** In-Flight Safety - Conversationalist (Producers: John Mullane and Glen Nicholson)
- **Folk Recording of the Year:** The Once - Departures
- **Group Recording of the Year:** The Town Heroes - Sunday Movies
- **Rising Star Recording of the Year:** Kim Harris - Only The Mighty
- **Solo Recording of the Year:** Carleton Stone - Draws Blood
- **Song of the Year:** Hey Rosetta - Kintsukuroi (Producer: Marcus Paquin)
- **Fans' Choice Entertainer of the Year:** The Town Heroes
- **Fans' Choice Video of the Year:** The Town Heroes - Holdin' Up Grants (Director: Dillon Garland)
- **Director's Special Achievement Award:** Marc Chouinard
- **Industry Builder Award:** Fred's Records

CAPE BRETON

Police constable pleads guilty to breach of trust relating to bar liquor inspection

A suspended Cape Breton Regional Police special constable, or jailer, pleaded guilty Thursday to a single count of breach of trust and will now be sentenced in July.

Todd Elliot MacKay, 44, of Lingan Road, was scheduled to stand trial this week in Supreme Court on four charges, but instead pleaded guilty to

one count, while the remainder were withdrawn.

The charge relates to an incident on May 6, 2011, in which MacKay phoned a bar to let them know a provincial liquor inspector was making the rounds as part of his enforcement of liquor control regulations.

MacKay was charged along

with former police constable Ron Williams who was previously sentenced on charges of breach of trust and obstruction of justice.

The charges flow from a report received by police in May 2011 concerning a complaint from a provincial liquor inspector about an impaired driver leaving the Royal

Canadian Legion in Whitney Pier.

According to evidence presented at the Williams trial, the constable asked the on-duty jailer, MacKay, to call the suspected driver and advise that police would be coming to his home and not to answer the door.

MacKay will be sentenced on July 9. CAPE BRETON POST



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THE DEALS ARE GREAT AT EXIT 8!

POLITICS**Harper to question allies about Iran deal: Sources**

A skeptical Harper government will be pressing some of Canada's closest allies about their deal to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

The Canadian Press has learned Prime Minister Stephen Harper will likely discuss the Iran deal this weekend while he and U.S. President Barack Obama are in Panama for the Summit of the Americas.

Sources also say Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson will discuss the issue next week when G7 foreign ministers meet in the German city of Lubeck. Nicholson has already released a statement expressing skepticism about the deal reached by six countries with Iran to curb its nuclear program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP launch complaint against Liberals

The NDP is seeking an investigation into Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau's alleged improper use of parliamentary premises for partisan purposes.

The NDP's complaint comes one day after the Liberals sought an investigation into NDP MPs' allegedly inappropriate use of their taxpayer-funded constituency offices to campaign for re-election. Both complaints have been sent to House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer, who chairs the multi-party board of internal economy, which polices how Commons resources are spent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**OTTAWA GUARDING THE GUARDS**

Ottawa Police Const. Santiago De Los Santos watches over the National War Memorial as sentries return to their post for their first day on Thursday. The Department of Defence has hired the Ottawa Police Service to guard the sentries, after Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, a reservist guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, was shot and killed by a gunman while on sentry duty on Oct. 22, 2014. The Department of National Defence is paying the Ottawa police an estimated \$425,000 for uniformed officers to protect the sentries beginning this week and running until mid-November. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. team develops antibody for cancer

Researchers at the University of B.C. have developed an antibody that can slow the ability of aggressive tumours to grow and spread to different parts of the body.

Early testing in mice shows the antibody has the ability to "knock down" aggressive tumour cells and their ability to migrate and spread to other parts of the body, said Dr. Kelly McNaghy of UBC's Biomedical Research Centre.

"It's all looking great," McNaghy told Metro. "It's human cells in a mouse model, but we're excited about the idea of now developing more antibodies that we could start using to treat patients."

Developed in collaboration with the Centre for Drug Research and Development, the antibody works by targeting podocalyxin, a protein marker found in many highly aggressive tumours. Podocalyxin is associated with about five per cent of breast cancers, most ovarian cancers and some types of colon, renal and bladder cancers. Earlier studies on the protein marker have shown that its presence in tumours is linked to low survival rates.

McNaghy and his team recently discovered that inhibiting podocalyxin dramatically slowed the growth and metastasis of aggressive tumours in mice.

"That's why we're excited about it," he said. "It seems to get rid of the cells that are residual and that move around to set up shop in other places."

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO IN VANCOUVER

The bill for beauty

DUFFY TRIAL**Questions arise over who paid for makeup services**

The prime minister might have had his makeup done alongside Sen. Mike Duffy in 2010 on one of their many appearances together, but a government source says the taxpayer didn't pick up the tab for that type of service.

Still, one month earlier, taxpayers did foot the bill for Stephen Harper's makeup artist to travel overseas for the 65th

anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

The fact that Harper and Duffy employed the services of the same makeup artist surfaced in court earlier this week.

Defence lawyer Donald Bayne said Tuesday that Duffy had his makeup done for a G8/G20 national youth caucus event in 2010 and that Harper received the same service that day.

"The \$300 (contract) paid not only Sen. Duffy's perfectly standard makeup for television — it's always done — but Ms.

31

Suspended senator Mike Duffy is facing 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery.

Lambert made up the prime minister of Canada," Bayne said in court.

A government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, refused to comment on a matter before the court but did say that "these services are not paid for by taxpayers."

In fact, the taxpayer has picked up bills in the past for another Harper stylist, and around the same time period.

Michelle Muntean travelled around the world with Harper, applying makeup, styling hair,

selecting clothing and trimming nails.

In 2007, Harper's office told The Canadian Press that Muntean's expenses were covered by the Conservative party.

But the Public Accounts of Canada, the government's annual spending report, tell a different story: the Department of Foreign Affairs paid her travel expenses, including flights, meals and accommodation.

The records for 2009-2010, for example, show she travelled with Harper on 13 different trips.

In May 2010, the records show that she accompanied Harper to the Netherlands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ISIL says group hacked French network TV5

PARIS

Prosecutor's office opens terrorism investigation

Hackers claiming allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) seized control of a global French television network, simultaneously blacking out 11 channels and taking over the network's website and social-media accounts. The attack appeared to be an unprecedented step in the extremist group's information-warfare tactics.

The hackers briefly cut transmission of 11 channels belonging to TV5 Monde and took over its websites and social-media accounts starting Wednesday night. The channel's director, Yves Bigot, said the attack continued into Thursday. He told RTL radio that the network has restored its signal but can only

broadcast recorded programs.

The Islamic extremist group has claimed complex hackings before, but experts and a French official said the ability to black out a global television network represented a new level of sophistication for the group. The Paris prosecutor's office said Thursday it has opened a terrorism investigation into the attack.

Bigot said he was shaken when he saw the black screen across the network's broadcasts "and when we discovered the sense of the message appearing on our social media and our websites, it both allowed us to understand what was happening and obviously worried us."

The message on the TV5 Monde website read in part "I am IS" with a banner by a group that called itself Cybercaliphate. It was replaced later Thursday by a simple message saying that it was undergoing maintenance.

Hackers claiming to work on behalf of ISIL have seized



TV5 employees work in Paris on Thursday after the French television network was hacked by people claiming allegiance to ISIL. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

control of the Twitter accounts of other media, such as Newsweek, and in January they hacked into the Twitter page and YouTube site of the U.S. military's Central Command.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls, on his Twitter account, called the attack "an unacceptable insult to freedom of information and expression," and French

government ministers visited the channel's Paris headquarters Thursday.

TV5 Monde, which was founded by the French government in 1984 and calls itself the "worldwide French cultural channel," broadcasts news and other programs produced in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLICE BRUTALITY

Critics want abuse claims monitored

The fatal shooting of an unarmed black man fleeing from a police officer has stirred outrage around the nation, but people in the South Carolina city of North Charleston aren't surprised, calling it inevitable for a police department they believe focuses on petty crimes and fails to keep its officers in check.

There is almost nothing in Michael Thomas Slager's police personnel file to suggest that his bosses considered him a rogue officer capable of murdering a man he pulled over for a broken tail light. People in the community he served say this reflects what's

going wrong with policing today: officers nearly always get the last word when citizens complain.

The mostly black neighbourhood in North Charleston where Slager fired eight shots at the back of Walter Lamer Scott on Saturday is far from unique in this regard, said Melvin Tucker, a former FBI agent and police chief in four southern cities who often testifies in police misconduct cases.

Civil-rights leaders want North Charleston to create an independent citizens review board to review complaints against police.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

French protesters march in nationwide strikes

Thousands of protesters, many blowing whistles and waving union flags, marched through Paris and other French cities on Thursday in a day of nationwide strikes that kept many children out of school, forced the closure of the Eiffel Tower and cancelled some 2,000 flights in

and out of France.

Stepping up pressure on President Francois Hollande's already-unpopular Socialist government, the protesters aired an array of grievances against state funding cuts, planned increases in the retirement age and business-friendly reforms that could make firing workers easier.

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U.S. Midwest braces for big storm



Derek Smith, 14, looks at the shattered rear window of his mom's car that was busted out by hail stones slightly smaller than tennis balls that fell from a storm in downtown Farmington, Mo., Wednesday. DAVID CARSON/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORNADO SEASON

'Enhanced risk' of hail, high winds, tornadoes

A broad swath of the Midwest is girding for hail, damaging winds and possibly tornadoes as a strong storm front continues to rumble east.

The National Weather Service's "enhanced risk" area Thursday stretches from northeast Texas to the upper Midwest. Forecasters say Philadelphia, Washington and other parts of the Atlantic coast could

see the same weather patterns Friday.

In Milwaukee, an interstate was closed for several hours Thursday morning after several vehicles became partially submerged in flood water due to heavy rain.

Tornadoes were reported Wednesday and early Thursday in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, but those areas saw minimal damage from the year's first widespread bout of severe weather.

In central Indiana, a 75-year-old woman died Wednesday night after being swept into a rain-swollen creek near Indianapolis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ BACKGROUND

Hail, hail rock and roll

Some of the hail stones that were slightly smaller than a tennis ball that fell in downtown Farmington, Mo., Wednesday. Numerous cars sustained broken windows from the hail. DAVID CARSON/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GADGETS

Apple Watch ready for online orders

Buying an Apple Watch won't be as simple as walking into an Apple store and handing over your credit card.

The smartwatch comes in 54 configurations — more than any other Apple gadget. So starting Friday, Apple stores will have staff trained to help you choose. You'll then have to place your order for shipping starting April 24.

Prices range from \$349 US to \$17,000 US, depending on the watch case, band and size.

If you know the specific configuration you want, you're best off ordering it online, starting at 12:01 a.m. PDT Friday (3:01 a.m. EDT). There won't be an in-store pickup option.

Besides the United States, the watch is available to customers in Australia, Canada,

China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan and the United Kingdom.

For the most part, watches will be available for viewing when stores open Friday, so many overseas stores will actually show the watch before orders are accepted.

Only some stores will carry the 18-karat gold luxury models known as Edition. When

you make the try-on reservation, you'll have to specify whether you're looking for these models or the cheaper ones. Specialists will handle these luxury appointments. If you're just interested in seeing them, all stores will have them for viewing in glass cases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canadians sue U.S. sperm bank over donor details

A U.S. sperm bank said Thursday it did not verify the personal information of a donor used by a Canadian couple who are now suing the company, alleging they were never told the man was a schizophrenic with a criminal record.

In an open letter, the president of Xytex Corp. said a careful review of its records had determined the Canadian couple's claims "do not reflect" the information the donor provided to the company.

"We stand by the process we followed and intend to vigorously defend ourselves against the allegations in this lawsuit," Kevin M. O'Brien said in the letter.

Port Hope, Ont., residents Angela Collins and Margaret Elizabeth Hanson say they learned through emails sent from Xytex in error that their sperm donor, James Christian Agegeles, was schizophrenic, "held no degrees whatsoever," had been arrested for burglary and that his photos had been doctored to remove a large mole on his cheek.

In a statement of claim filed with a Georgia court, the couple alleges they only accidentally learned the identity of their donor — years after their son was born. Through their own research, they contend, they realized the donor, James Christopher Agegeles, was a college dropout who had been arrested for burglary at one point and had schizophrenia.

None of the allegations contained in the statement of claim have been proven in court.

The couple is now seeking damages for pain, suffering and financial losses as it alleges Xytex engaged in fraud, misrepresentation, negligence and bat-

+ WHAT THEY SAID

The couple:

In their statement of claim, Ontario couple Angela Collins and Margaret Elizabeth Hanson say they learned through emails sent from Xytex in error that their sperm donor, James Christian Agegeles, was schizophrenic, "held no degrees whatsoever," had been arrested for burglary and that his photos had been doctored to remove a large mole on his cheek.

The sperm bank:

The donor reported a "good health history" and stated in his application that he had no physical or medical impairments, Xytex president Kevin O'Brien said. The donor also provided the company with signed photos of himself and gave Xytex copies of his undergraduate and graduate university degrees, O'Brien said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tery, among other claims.

But Xytex claims it has done nothing wrong. The company said it wanted to assure the public that claims it misled a client are "simply not true."

"We followed thorough procedures to review the health of the donor. As you may know, this vetting process eliminates 99 per cent of the potential

donors who apply to Xytex," O'Brien explained in his letter.

"In this case, the donor underwent a standard medical exam and provided extensive personal and health information."

The suit states Agegeles appears to have fathered 36 children. Lawyer Nancy Hersh said she had at least 15 other clients who may be joining the lawsuit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TAP. TAP. TAP.



THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



Hi, my name is Rebecca and I'm an iAddict. This is a hard day for me because it's the day the Apple Watch goes on pre-order. I must stay strong.

The idea of the Apple Watch gives me a nervous breakdown. I already have a MacBook, an iPod, an iPhone and an iPad — this is not a humble brag, it's more a humiliating admission.

When the iPad came out, I felt like Goldilocks: "My laptop is too big and my iPhone is too small, but that iPad looks juuuusssst right."

And now, Apple is releasing a watch that tells time, checks emails, takes calls and makes the Casio calculator watch I had in Grade 3 look like a joke.

Can I resist? And if I don't, what will happen to my social skills? What will happen to my credit card? And what will happen to my brain?

Sometimes I come home tired, wanting to relax. I'll sit on the couch and start scrolling through Netflix (ahem, on my Apple TV), then I'll hear my phone buzz. As I try to ignore that, I'll hear the bleep of a Facebook message coming through my computer, then the ding of a text, and the chime of an email.

You know the feeling, right? It's both intriguing and exhausting, like "I wonder who that is" mixed with "who the hell is that?"

You try to hold out, ignore them, but as you watch that old Friends episode, the buzzes and the beeps and the chimes gnaw at the back of your thoughts like a rat whose teeth resemble the end

of a USB cord. Finally, you give in and you check the messages, often to find they're disappointing or stressful. "Oh, an ad for a vagina enlargement." Or "great, a friendly reminder from my accountant that it's tax season."

If I can barely relax now, I feel like the Apple Watch will take over my life. The chimes and buzzes won't be across the room anymore, they'll be on my body. Tapping me — the Apple Watch doesn't vibrate, it taps — taunting me. Every text, every FB invite, every Instagram of my friend Cathy's new manicure ... tap, tap, tap.

Sometimes I feel like I'm in a psychological thriller; like social media is a psycho neighbour who keeps knocking on my door to tell me what colour Kim Kardashian's hair is. And though I know this, I can't resist answering

the door, just in case it's something else, something great.

I read an article recently about the fact that every time we check our messages or notifications or play Candy Crush, we get a hit of dopamine.

Dopamine is the same chemical released when a cocaine addict snorts a line or a smoker lights up. Though I'll be jealous of everyone that has one, I don't think I'll get an Apple Watch.

I'm already addicted and the watch sounds like hooking myself up to an intravenous notification drip.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Women can get abortions, but individual women can't

I've never been faced with the abortion choice.

But if I ever have one, I know I'll fear the stigma and shame — not from the minority of pro-lifers in this country, but from within the pro-choice majority.

Abortion is framed as black and white. It's not. It's "thousands of different shades of gray," as a U.S. Vox Media survey released this week points out. Some people are both pro-choice and pro-life, and each draws the line in a different place.

That plays out in Canada, too: In a 2014 poll, 23 per cent of otherwise pro-choice Canadians said they feel we should have some restrictions on the procedure. We're also split on whether abortion should always be paid for, or only in medical emergencies.

Canadians gaze with scorn at the theatrical, divisive abortion politics of the U.S. We agree on women's right to choose, we congratulate ourselves. We applaud our reasonable laws, our legal, paid-for-by-the-government abortions.

But we are hypocrites. When it comes to supporting women who make that choice, we are silent. Women in general can get abortions. Not an individual woman.

There were 82,869 abortions in Canada in 2013. One-third of Canadian women will terminate a pregnancy. And yet I have personally only heard of two.

Of those two, only one was

a friend who told me of her abortion. It was hard for her to share, and it's now a vaulted secret. Our friends are pro-choice — as are 60 per cent of Canadians — but we both still worry about judgment.

There are public campaigns to dispel the shame around mental health, so people need not suffer from isolation, or blame, but we say nothing about abortion.

Everyone has their own take on abortion, if they'd have one, when they might. For some women, it's a painful decision for which they might even shame themselves. These nuanced opinions creep into our health-care system and silence us among each other.

Canadian medical schools are failing to properly educate future doctors about abortion, due to both stigma and fear of offending students, according to journalist Danielle Groen, who's written about the issue.

Access to abortion varies widely across the country, and is notoriously difficult outside major cities — a bias caused in part by fear of stigma and one that undermines our supposed legal right, noted longtime abortion activist Joyce Arthur.

"It's one thing to have a right, and really another thing to implement it," she said.

We've already said it's OK, so why does it still feel wrong?

Because we don't have abortion "solved." We've only sewn up the politics. And until we work harder to diminish the shame, Canadian women will suffer.

Happy face/Sad face

From **matrimonial marketing** to **suffocating welfare laws**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



Poultry pilgrimage

Two Canadian dads took their sons on a Kentucky Fried road trip of a lifetime. Travelling 3,400 kilometres from Montreal to the Harland Sanders Café and Museum in Kentucky, the families said three of the sons had never tried the crispy birds before and that they had never laughed so much in their lives. Goes to show that treating your fast food as an adventure can be amazing. Putting a ring on it, however ... (read on)



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Heavy stuff

As if it wasn't sad enough when undying chaos-demon, Lord and Master of Earth and lead singer of GWAR Dave Brockie, a.k.a. Oderus Urungus, overdosed last March, the band is now being sued by Brockie's father. Dad says the other guys stole his son's remains, guitars and other stuff. He claims he asked for the return of all of Urungus's remains, but instead got "a small fraction of his son's ashes which were delivered in a used plastic bag with a Discover credit card logo on it." The matter is tragically before the courts. But at least we'll always have the music.



Help the poor and needy

Some politicians are so petty and shortsighted that they can find no better use of their time than micromanaging the spending habits of the poor. If a new law passes, welfare recipients in Kansas won't be allowed to use their cash at pools, nail salons or movie theatres, and will be barred from withdrawing more than \$25 a day at ATMs. This idea makes no moral or fiscal sense (you could probably get some pretty sweet nail decals for the same price as the fees you'd be paying on daily withdrawals), but when scapegoating the most vulnerable in society is your public-service priority, logic is mere trifle.



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Cashing in on our lust for love

ANALYSIS

Nicholas 'The Notebook' Sparks has yet another sticky sweet tale for us

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



Novelist Nicholas Sparks is the current king of romance writers. His flowery prose even gives Harlequin a run for their money in the three-hanky tearjerker department. Who else could write a line like, "Love is like the wind, you can't see it, but you can feel it," with a straight face?

He is to romance writing what Buckley's cough syrup is to a tickly throat. They both get the job done, but leave a sickly sweet aftertaste.

His best-known novel adaptation is *The Notebook*, a cross-generational love story that spent over a year as a New York Times hardcover top seller. Inspired by the story of his wife's grandparents' 60-year marriage, the novel became a 2004 movie starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams. The tale of love and Alzheimer's is emotionally manipulative (writer Gary Pantoni called this passionate weeper "mushier than a mushed-up bowl of mushy peas that's just



Scott Eastwood and Britt Robertson star in Nicholas Sparks' latest lovey affair, *The Longest Ride*. CONTRIBUTED

been mushed in an industrial-strength mushifier") but opening weekend it surfed a wave of tears to the box office Top 5.

Sparks, a former pharmaceutical salesman, writes tales of love and loss, of mighty obstacles overcome and lip-locks galore, which he defines as "dramatic epic love stories" along the lines of "Eric Segal's *Love Story* or *The Bridges of Madison County* ... But you can even go all the way back. You

had Hemingway write *A Farewell to Arms*, the movies of the '40s — *Casablanca*, *From Here to Eternity* — Shakespeare, and that's the genre I work in."

He caught some flack for comparing himself to Shakespeare — one writer said, "If Sparks is like Shakespeare, then a house painter is like Picasso" — but the fact remains that his unconventional love stories, his parcels of passion, have made

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Longest Ride ★★
Danny Collins ★★★
Cut Bank ★

HOW RATING WORKS
 ★★★★★ SEE IT
 ★★★ UP TO YOU
 ★ SKIP IT

his name synonymous with the romance genre.

This weekend, prepare for another flurry of Sparkisms—tear-stained romantic letters, lines like, "Love requires sac-

rifice but it's worth it," and passionate make-out sessions — as *The Longest Ride* hits the big screen.

This time around "two stories separated by time, con-

nected by fate," get Sparksified as the lives of a young couple, played by Scott "Clint's son" Eastwood and Britt Robertson and older lovebirds Alan Alda and Oona Chaplin, interlace. "I wish I could tell you it's all happily ever after," says Alda's character, "not everybody gets that."

Expect unexpected poignancy.

Critics haven't always warmed to Sparks's stories on film — *Safe Haven* with Julianne Hough as "a young woman's struggle to love again" has a paltry 12 per cent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes, while *The Best of Me* starring Michelle Monaghan and James Marsden as high school sweethearts reunited after two decades sits at a miserable eight per cent rating.

But audiences can't seem to get enough of his weepy tales of unrequited love, lost love, mature love and love in a time of trouble.

Ten of his books have already been adapted for the movies, with one more, *The Choice*, scheduled for 2016.

His style of romance has caught on, but don't call him a romance writer.

"I write dramatic fiction. If you go into a further subgenre, it would be a love story, but it has its roots in the Greek tragedies. This genre evolved through Shakespeare. He did *Romeo and Juliet*. Hemingway did *A Farewell to Arms*. I do this currently today."

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Rookie film director banks on 35mm magic

CUT BANK

Matt Shakman forgoes digital, gives up salary for debut film



Richard Crouse
Metro | Canada

Cut Bank director Matt Shakman has something in common with 35mm film fanatics Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino. For his movie debut the director insisted on shooting on film rather than digital.

"I'm an analogue kind of guy," he says. "To do this movie, which is about a town that feels trapped in a distant era, it felt right to shoot it on film. We had to find a way to deal with the financial impact of it, but I found a solution to that. I gave up my salary in order to do it."

"I'll only get a chance to make a first movie once and to make it on film feels special. I may never get a chance to do it again."

Set in the hamlet of Cut Bank, Mont., the action begins when auto mechanic Dwayne (Liam Hemsworth) accidentally videotapes the murder of the local postman (Bruce Dern). He reports the crime to the local sheriff (John Malkovich), hoping for reward money, but there are complications in the form of the suspicious father of his girlfriend (Billy Bob Thornton), a postal inspector (Oliver Platt) and a reclusive man (Michael Stuhlbarg) violently obsessed with getting his mail.

The script appeared on Hollywood's 2009 black list of the best unproduced films



Crime thriller Cut Bank stars Billy Bob Thornton and Liam Hemsworth. CONTRIBUTED

You get these tantalizing elements that start to make everything feel more real.

Matt Shakman on making Cut Bank

and has been in Shakman's hands for five years.

In the beginning he simply loved the twisty-turny story.

"Then," he says, "I (became) like a dog chasing a rabbit at the track. You get these tantalizing elements that start to make everything feel more real."

"When someone like John Malkovich signs on it is so helpful for so many reasons. One, the pleasure, personally, of getting to work with one of my heroes. Two, he certainly helps tell other actors that this is a party worth coming to and the third thing is just the business reality of having a person in the film who can help you

with financing."

Shakman says he knows after the film's theatrical run "a lot of people will see Cut Bank on their iPads," and while he prefers the communal experience of watching movies with an audience, he knows times are changing.

"They'll also watch Breaking Bad (on their tablets), so the line has blurred very much between the two kinds of content. It's all just become stories and where you choose to find them and how you want them delivered."

TELEVISION

Lucy Lawless has a strange idea of fun

As Lucy Lawless is well aware, there are worse ways to spend a day at work than doing interviews promoting your new TV show. "We could be carrying bricks on a hill in Bangladesh," she offers.

But as we meet up in downtown Austin, Texas, to discuss her role on Salem, there is definitely something else she'd rather be doing — at the courthouse just down the street.

"I like to watch jury selections," she says.

"It's so interesting, you get to learn information about people's lives that's so dramatic. And yes, it's a bit voyeuristic, but you get to see true life, that way and the harsh truth behind it."

How often do you do this?

Oh, once a week. They don't always have jury selection, but I do enjoy that. You don't always know what the case is about, but sometimes you can get the information. I kind of have a scoop of who's a good person to go to for information at each courthouse. See, I'm never bored in any town because I always have my go-to activity.

Where did this come from?

I've always been interested. There are a lot of defence attorneys in my extended family and in my immediate, and I'm interested in the law and how it

plays out.

Sometimes you can see witnesses struggling to maintain a lie. Sometimes you can pick them, but often you cannot. And then the evidence will show that you were wrong. So I love all of that. It's human sleuthing.

So how long have you been sitting in on jury selections?

I started about four years ago, going to actual courthouses. But I read about the law all the time, about defence cases or prosecution cases. Because human beings, you know? Louisiana has a death penalty case coming up. It was aggravated rape of a minor this week, but you don't always know what the case is. I've got to listen very carefully and read between the lines, figure out what the charge is going to be from the questions they ask the jury.

Most people in the U.S. are trying to get out of jury duty.

You would think so! But yeah, in communities that are quite impoverished — and Louisiana's a poor state — that small amount of stipend you get for being a juror? Not so bad, you know? Maybe? I'm guessing here. But I don't see a lot of people trying to get out of it.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN NYC



Lucy Lawless, left, stars in the second season of Salem.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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When Kristen met Juliette

CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA

Stewart and Binoche talk film roles and easy rapport

Matt Prigge
 Metro in New York City

When we spoke last October during the New York Film Festival, Kristen Stewart had not yet become the first American female actor to ever win a Cesar — France's equivalent of the Oscar — for Olivier Assayas' *Clouds of Sils Maria*. But she was still ecstatic about it. In the film she plays Valentine, the harried but cucumber-cool personal assistant of Maria Enders, a Juliette Binoche-like superstar played by Juliette Binoche. That allowed her to mock the film industry and the gossip machine from a safe remove. The two actresses paired together to talk about their rapport, and, in Binoche's case, to whip out one hell of a laugh.

Juliette, your breakthrough, 1985's *Rendez-vous*, was written by Assayas, and you reunited for his 2008 film *Summer Hours*. You instigated this project. What was your original concept?

Juliette Binoche: I wanted him to deal with the feminine. I didn't know exactly what it would be, but I was imagining these characters exchanging roles. I talked about Bergman. I said, "C'mon, you love Bergman! You made a book of interviews (from 2008)!" And I was a little frustrated on *Summer Hours*, as an actress. I thought he was shy and hiding. I said, "I was missing you!"

Kristen Stewart: It's like, "I want to know you!"

JB: "I want to know you," yeah! And he said to me, "Give me two weeks and I'll tell you whether I like it or not." Then he called me and said, "I have the subject." A year and a half later he gave me the script

It's pretty honest about what goes on in the life of a middle-aged actress. What was your reaction to it?

JB: I was shocked! I didn't expect it to be that way at all. I was provoking him (big, hearty laugh) and I got slapped back! **Kristen, you were supposed to be Jo-Ann, a younger actress ultimately played by Chloe Grace Moretz, but you insisted on taking Valentine instead. Why was that?**

KS: That part is fantastic, but it's just not for me. It was something I knew so well that it wasn't interesting to me. I know Valentine so well, but I've never done it before. It'd be more interesting to say I gravitated towards the project because of the statements it made and the commentary that it is. But it was the emotional part that I really loved. And there's more irony and more layers steeped in her dialogue if it's coming out of my mouth. It's just the way it is. I've been there, I've been smack-dab in the middle. To directly address the media and talk about what precarious bulls — it can be sometimes and how we starvily consume people — that was fun. I had to erase the glee from my face while saying those lines. I had to try to not look so excited about it.

I've always gravitated towards American filmmakers who have a bit more fluidity and the balls to explore; and (who) live in something and don't need to control it so much. Kristen Stewart

Your characters have such a comfortable rapport. How did you develop that?

JB: We took some appointments to help us develop our relationship. (Big, hearty laugh). When you like someone, you like someone. We became close in a natural way.

KS: If we hadn't, the movie would not have been good. Because I am not a liar. If this (connection between us) was not solid and this was not



Juliette Binoche, left, plays a famous international actress struggling to deal with her next film, alongside her personal assistant, played by Kristen Stewart, in *Clouds of Sils Maria*. CONTRIBUTED

stimulating ... This woman makes me think more than most people that I've worked with. I'm constantly sitting there in between everything (thinking). She perplexes me a little bit, which is absolutely the right dynamic. We didn't have to fake it.

ily consumable, people are not going to make it. It's either going to be the tiniest, tiniest movie ever,

or it's just never going to happen. I read really great scripts all the time that are different and go against convention and

say something new. And they can never find legs. They never get made. It's a cliché because it's true.

DIRECTOR'S TAKE OLIVIER ASSAYAS

Filmmaker Olivier Assayas was partly responsible for Juliette Binoche's big break, and she his: In 1985 she starred in *Rendez-vous*, co-written by Assayas, his first screen credit. In *Clouds of Sils Maria*, she plays a very Binoche-y star, who worries that she's finally being replaced by the young.

"It's not about the cruelty of aging. It's about how to deal with it," he says. "It's not about rivalry. It's about a woman who ... has to accept that she's in another place, and that eventually a younger actress will look at her the same way she looked at an older actress when she was young."



Oliver Assayas. GETTY IMAGES

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Hemingway tackles taboos

MARIEL HEMINGWAY

Mental illness, suicide covered in memoirs by granddaughter of literary icon

Many people remember Mariel Hemingway best from her portrayal of the sweet teenager Tracy in Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, where she delivered the film's uplifting closing line, a reminder that "You have to have a little faith in people."

But Hemingway herself, then only 16, was living a life with much darkness in it; her family was plagued by alcoholism, drug addiction and mental illness. And suicide — including her famous grandfather, Ernest Hemingway, in 1961, and sister Margaux, the former supermodel, in 1996.

Hemingway, now 53, has written two new memoirs, *Out Came the Sun*, and a young-adult version, *Invisible Girl*, in which she frankly recounts her family's struggles. Here are some excerpts from her interview with *The Associated Press*.

You write at length about alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness and suicide in your

family. Do you feel all these things are connected?

Yes, especially in my family. Look at my grandfather, this extraordinary man, Ernest Hemingway, the greatest writer of the 20th century. But he was also self-medicating pain with a lot of drinking. Then I look at my oldest sister (Muffet), who is still alive, who is wonderful, but ... I think her schizophrenia and mental health issues were triggered by drug addiction. My other sister as well, she was a major alcoholic. And you know, it's a chemical. It changes your brain. In my family, it was never one glass of wine. It was a bottle. And it changes people.

You write about how you've had seven people in your family commit suicide. And you've been involved in suicide prevention efforts. Do we have a lot to learn about suicide?

Suicide is extremely complex. It is not necessarily somebody who suffers long-term mental illness. It can be planned for 20 years, or it can happen out of the blue. And we just need to talk more about it because there is a tremendous amount of shame around suicide. It was a long healing process for me, to understand how my own sister could commit suicide and knowing that I thought she was doing really well, and you'll see

that in many situations. The reason I wrote these books is so that if Mariel Hemingway, who comes from this family that everybody (knows), if SHE talks about her story, maybe I get someone suffering somewhere in silence to find a safe space to tell their story. So that they can start to heal.

Why did you write the young adult book?

Because that's (the age) when I was the most scared. Also when I was the most confused. A lot of kids don't know that there's somebody out there that gets it. You don't know it's not normal. I thought that when parents fought and there was broken glass and blood on the wall, that you cleaned it up because this was your job.

Your family name has quite a legacy attached to it. Are you hoping to influence it?

I'd hate to be so egotistical to think I was adding to the legacy of my family. But the same time I do feel a responsibility to honour it. And there's a lot of misinterpretations. I don't think my grandfather was a great writer because he drank too much and lived a hard life, I think he was a great writer because he worked really hard to be a great writer. And if he were to do it all over again, he wouldn't do it drinking. And the irony is, he never wrote drunk. That was a rule of his. So obviously at some level he understood that, and I just want people to appreciate the greatness of my family and also appreciate how we are just like everyone else at the same time, in some way. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Actress Mariel Hemingway recounts her famous family's struggles in two new books, *Out Came the Sun*, and a young-adult version, *Invisible Girl*. DAN HALLMAN/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“By the fourth glass of wine they were not the same people, their eyes had dropped and there was a darkness that had sort of overcome them. Mariel Hemingway on her parents and sisters, and their drinking



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HEALTH

Taylor Swift's mom is battling cancer

Taylor Swift revealed to her fans that her mother has cancer.

Swift wrote about the news in a post on her Tumblr on Thursday, which her representative confirmed.

Swift wants to keep the details private, but said her mother wanted fans to know what was going on.

The 25-year-old singer said she asked her mother to see her doctors as a Christmas gift. She said "there were no red flags," but they later learned Andrea Swift had cancer.

Though Swift is the superstar, Andrea has become a favourite among Swift's fans, often earning cheers from audiences at live shows.



Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

Swift also encouraged her young fans to remind their parents to go to the doctor and get checkups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COURT

Jon Hamm accused in violent 1990 frat hazing

Court records show Mad Men star Jon Hamm was accused of taking part in a violent 1990 fraternity hazing at the University of Texas.

The Emmy-nominated actor had not previously been publicly linked to a Sigma Nu pledge who had sued after he said was dragged around by a hammer and had his pants lit on fire. The pledge said Hamm participated "till the very end."

The 1991 lawsuit was filed in Austin and obtained by *The Associated Press*. Hamm's involvement was first reported by the *Daily Mail*. Records show Hamm was charged with hazing and received probation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gosling inspired by Detroit

DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

Lost River is about surviving in city that's falling apart



Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

Lost River is the debut effort by a new writer and director named Ryan Gosling. Maybe you've heard of him. He's Canadian or something. We sat down with Gosling to discuss why the story of a young man and his mother (starring Iain De Caestecker and Christina Hendricks) trying to survive in the economic wasteland of Detroit spoke to him so strongly.

What was it about this story that made it right for your directorial debut?

I had written something when I was in my early 20s about child soldiers, and it was because I had gone to Uganda and Sudan and I had an experience that I wanted to elaborate on. I tried for a while to get that film made and I just couldn't. I just wasn't in a place in my career where I could make that happen. Then, you know, life happened and I was in more films, and then suddenly I went to Detroit and I had a similar feeling where I just felt a real connection to the place and had an experience there that I wanted to share and elaborate on.



Ryan Gosling's *Lost River* is the Canadian actor's first directing credit. PASCAL LE SEGRETAIR/WIREIMAGE

Sometimes you read a script and you feel like you could contribute by acting, and then sometimes you have an experience where it's, "If I don't write this, no one will."

Aside from Christina Hendricks and your partner, Eva Mendes, you've got a Brit, a Scot, an Irish woman and an Australian playing Detroit residents. What do you have against American actors?

For the most part, I'd worked with everybody before and I just wanted to work with my friends on this film, and most of them I had seen a side of

them that I hadn't gotten to see in their work, and so I wanted to write for that. But then there was this central character of Bones (De Caestecker), which was obviously the most important piece and the hardest to find, but Ian was so much more than what I'd hoped for. He just has a quality of wanting to highlight everyone else that's in the scene with him. He came (to Detroit) a month before hand and didn't tell anybody, started stripping copper in these buildings, and he walked every block of these neighbourhoods. He basically took

Landon as a younger brother. He just brought this authenticity to it but just kept it in his pocket.

What was the process of you for defining the visual language of this film?

I had a year — not a solid year, by any stretch — but over the course of a year I took some trips to Detroit on my own and I was filming. And that really helped me — in one way because I felt like I was making the movie, even if it was just me, but that it had started and the train had left the station and now I had to

finish. But it also helped me because now I had images that I knew were the film, not just inspiration for the film. I could show producers, actors, financiers, not "this is what it could be" but "this is what it is."

The drowned towns motif is such a striking visual.

I grew up next to a river where I had found a road leading into it, and that's how I learned that they had sunken a bunch of towns to make this river. That's sort of where that idea came from, but yeah, it's a totally surreal, true thing that happens, and it's very bizarre.

+ BACKGROUND

In *Lost River*, Christina Hendricks' character works in a macabre private sex-and-death club.

"It was based on the Grand Guignol and the Hell Cafe and the Death Cafe," says Gosling. "All of these were part of a macabre entertainment scene in Paris in the early 1900s. At the Grand Guignol, they would put on these horror shows, murder theatre where they would kill people on stage. It was fake but very realistic, and it gave birth to horror films. At that time, for whatever reason, there was this real macabre entertainment scene and fascination with death. We tried to root all the fantasy in this film in some form of reality, you know? So we used that as a big inspiration. But the idea was that in these sorts of places — after a natural disaster or, in this case, an economic disaster — they attract people who have dark fantasies because they can enact them in these places where no one's watching. You can get away with anything in these kinds of environments."



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Director: George Tillman Jr.
Starring: Scott Eastwood, Brittany Robertson

Based on the bestselling novel by Nicholas Sparks, the film centres on the star-crossed love affair between former champion bull rider Luke and college student Sophia. Spanning generations and two intertwining love stories, it explores the challenges and rewards of enduring love.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **14%** **Audience:** **+90%**



DRAMA & COMEDY Danny Collins

Director: Dan Fogelman
Starring: Al Pacino, Annette Bening

Al Pacino stars as aging 1970s rocker Danny Collins, who can't give up his hard-living ways. But when his manager (Christopher Plummer) uncovers a 40-year-old undelivered letter written to him by John Lennon, he embarks on a heartfelt journey.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **72%** **Audience:** **76%**

ACTION Furious 7

Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker

Continuing the global exploits in the unstoppable franchise built on speed, Vin Diesel, Paul Walker and Dwayne Johnson lead the returning cast of Fast & Furious 7.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **86%** **Audience:** **+98%**

COMEDY Get Hard

Director: Etan Cohen
Starring: Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart headline this Warner Bros. comedy about a wrongfully convicted investment banker who prepares for prison life with the help of the man who washes his car.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **28%** **Audience:** **+95%**

Who will be on the guest list at Cannes?

FILM FESTIVAL Woody Allen, Cate Blanchett among celebs that may make it to France

With the Cannes Film Festival set to open in just over a month's time, speculation is swirling over which films — and which top directors and actors — could be getting their moment under the French Riviera sun.

Cannes's organizers jealously guard their selections for the competition lineup and the out-of-competition program until a month before the film fest opens. This year, the movies to be shown at Cannes will be announced on April 16, and the festival will run from May 13 to 24.

Woody Allen is seen as more than likely to be walking the red carpet with his new flick, Irrational Man, starring Joaquin Phoenix.

Cate Blanchett may also be along for her movie Carol. And fellow Oscar-winner Matthew McConaughey could appear for The Sea of Trees the latest film by director Gus Van Sant, which also stars Naomi Watts.

The director of the festival, Thierry Fremaux, said last week "there is no more than a third of the selection definitively decided." He added he and his selection committee "watch the



Mad Max: Fury Road, starring Charlize Theron, will be show in Cannes just before its wide release in May. CONTRIBUTED

movies right to the end."

Cannes mixes international art-house cinema, Hollywood blockbusters, extravagant parties, industry wheeling and dealing, and eye-catching publicity stunts in a potent cocktail that has made it the pre-eminent global showcase for movies.

So far the only movie confirmed to be screened is Mad Max: Fury Road. The dystopian

sci-fi movie, the fourth in the

high-action Mad Max franchise and the first to star British actor Tom Hardy in the title role, will be shown out of competition on May 14 just before its worldwide release.

Fury Road co-star Charlize Theron is expected to saunter up the red-carpeted steps. She could put on another dress for The Last Face, directed by

Sean Penn and starring Theron and Javier Bardem.

Harry Potter actress Emma Watson and Boyhood star Ethan Hawke might be along if Regression, by Spanish director Alejandro Amenabar (who made The Others, The Sea Inside) is selected.

Italy's flag could flutter over Mia Madre, the most recent picture by Nanni Moretti who won Cannes's top prize the Palme d'Or in 2001, or maybe La Giovinezza by Paolo Sorrentino, whose Grande Bellezza (The Great Beauty) won a foreign picture Oscar last year.

Asia, as always, is expected to be well represented. AFP

THE SHORT LIST

The Cannes selection committee is screening 1,800 films — from start to end credits — to arrive at the short list for next month's festival



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So much for diversity: White guys still rule

HOLLYWOOD

Women, ethnic casts viable, but ratios favour status quo

The Fast & Furious series is often cited as an example of how diversity can work in Hollywood. With its multicultural casts and international settings, the franchise has generated more than \$2.4 billion in global earnings. The latest instalment, Furious 7, set box-office records last weekend with its \$147-million domestic opening.

"Usually, big studio tent-pole films are all very whitewashed," says Furious 7 director James Wan. "People need to learn from this, because this is the way of the future."

Wan says the Furious films play well globally "because they have people from that part of the world in the movies and they're not treated like second-class citizens."

The dearth of diversity in Hollywood was heavy on the entertainment industry's mind during awards season, when the #OscarSoWhite hashtag went viral and host Neil Patrick Harris joked about honouring the "best and whitest — sorry — brightest" at the Academy Awards.

32 films

The Associated Press did a survey of about 170 films scheduled for release this year, and determined that only 32 of them will feature actors of colour in prominent roles.

Yet despite the success of films like Furious 7 and increased awareness of the industry's white, male status quo, change won't be seen onscreen anytime soon.

True, this year's movies were made before the Oscar outcry. But whether onscreen diversity

improves over time as production catches up to new awareness remains to be seen. One thing's for certain, though: Much work lies ahead.

Studies by researchers at UCLA and USC show vast underrepresentation of women and minorities in every aspect of filmmaking.

"Recognizing a problem and changing it are two very different beasts," said Cathy Schulman, the Oscar-winning producer of Crash and president of Women in Film.

In insular, high-risk, high-profit Hollywood, change has to be insistent and intentional, said Darnell Hunt, director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA.

"It's not going to correct itself naturally," said the sociology professor, co-author of UCLA's annual report on minority representation in the industry. "I suspect we'll have more and more dysfunction and lack of alignment of people in the industry holding onto an approach they've had for generations and ignoring where America is."



Michelle Rodriguez, top, and Ludacris in Furious 7. ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

His team's ongoing study of the entertainment industry aims to quantify the relationship between diversity and profitability. Their second annual Hollywood diversity report, released in February, shows that while women and minorities are underrepresented across entertainment relative to the U.S. population, movies and TV shows with diverse casts tend to perform well in ratings and at the box office. "There's a myth of people of colour not being viable inter-

nationally when the rest of the world is diverse," Hunt said.

Film and TV studio heads — found by the UCLA study to be overwhelmingly white and male — usually hire people they've worked with before, which reproduces the dismal ethnic and gender ratios. A recent study by USC and the advocacy group Women in Film shows women have represented fewer than five per cent of directors of top films during the past two decades.

People of colour have made

incremental progress recently in some areas of the entertainment business, the UCLA study found. Lead roles for non-white actors in film and TV increased by about 1 1/2 per cent in 2013 over the previous year. But even with the success of minority-led TV series such as The Mindy Project, Scandal and How to Get Away With Murder, non-white showrunners account for less than six per cent of all broadcast scripted fare, the study found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Aaron Paul in Need for Speed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDUSTRY TREND

Need for Speed sequel has Chinese co-producer on board

Appetite for 2014's Need for Speed meant that Chinese audiences contributed \$66 million of the film's \$203 million take — more than any other territory, including the U.S., and matching the movie's production budget.

The sequel, announced this week, is expected to be shot in China, with a cast and crew featuring Chinese talent.

It's part of a trend that sees U.S. companies pay more and more attention to a global market, specifically a Chinese one,

as China's biggest production studios become increasingly important.

Transformers: Age of Extinction signified that sea-change in attitudes towards Chinese co-operation.

Fourth in the Michael Bay

film series, it actually had a lower budget than its two immediate predecessors, but outdid all three forerunners in terms of box office domination.

As with Need for Speed, China Movie Channel and Jialix Enterprise came on board

to co-produce.

A good portion of filming took place in Hong Kong and on the mainland, ensuring a significant slice of Chinese action — even more for Chinese audiences, who received a localized, alternative cut. AFP

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Arya Stark, hardened by her life on the run, is headed solo toward the city of Braavos. CONTRIBUTED

Catch up on your GoT plot lines

Battling warriors and wrangling dragons on Game of Thrones is easy. Weathering the bitter cold north of The Wall is a snap. What's hard is keeping track of all the storylines and remembering how things were left hanging when last season ended all those months ago. With the return of Thrones for its fifth season on Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT on HBO, here's a reminder of what some of the characters were up to, way back then. And if you're not caught up, spoiler alert:

1 Jon Snow

Was attempting to broker peace with the wildling army of Mance Rayder, self-styled King-Beyond-the-Wall, when Mance's camp was attacked by troops led by One-True-King Stannis Baratheon.

2 Mance Rayder

Was taken prisoner by Stannis, who ordered him to kneel in surrender, something Mance, a stubborn sort, refused to do.

3 Stannis Baratheon

Left the impression, yet again, that

he's not the forgiving type.

4 Tyrion Lannister

Often dismissed for his diminutive stature, but tough as nails, let loose a couple of fatal bolts from his crossbow at his father, Lord Tywin Lannister, who had it coming. After this execution, Tyrion was whisked away by Varys, a eunuch, and the two set sail for freedom.

5 Brienne of Tarth

A towering woman and would-be knight, was determined to fulfill her pledge to save the headstrong girl Arya Stark from the grip of thuggish Sandor Clegane, as she nearly killed him in a brawl. But Arya refused to join her and vanished from sight.

6 Arya Stark

Hardened by her hard young life on the run, took vengeance on her captor, Sandor, by refusing to put him out of his misery with her sword as he lay gravely wounded after his rumble with Brienne. She left him dying in agony as she took off solo for the city of Braavos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECH

Lego brings toys to life with new platform

The creators of the Lego video games are building their own rendition of a toys-to-life franchise.

Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and TT Games unveiled plans Thursday for Lego Dimensions, a game and toy line combining real-world Lego bricks and figures with virtual game worlds depicted on screen. It's similar to the popular Skylanders, Disney Infinity and ambiiio series from Activision-Blizzard Inc., Walt Disney Co. and Nintendo Co.

Lego Dimensions will click together several Lego-ized versions of entertainment properties, including The Lord of the Rings, Back to the Future, DC Comics, The Wizard of Oz.

"I think The Lego Movie helped open the door," said TT Games managing director Jon Burton, who served as a producer on the film. "We've found that everyone from the intellectual properties we've partnered with were hugely open to this idea.

It's lent itself to creating this world where hopefully it's only bounded by the imagination of the kids playing it."

The series' starter pack, which is scheduled for release Sept. 27 for all major consoles at \$99.99, will include the game, a reader and pieces to construct a Lego portal on the device, as well as figures of Batman, the Batmobile, Gandalf and Wyldstyle from The Lego Movie. The trio is set to be voiced respectively by Troy Baker,

Tom Kane and Elizabeth Banks.

The reader, which is divided into three sections and can detect up to seven Lego figures or vehicles at a time, doesn't visually scan the bricks. Instead, the Lego figures and vehicles can be affixed to individually marked discs containing radio frequency identification technology that's transmitted to the reader, just like the Skylanders and Infinity toys.

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JAPAN

Ramen soup so revered entire museums are devoted to it

There are two kinds of ramen in this world. There's the packaged staple of dorm-room cuisine, one of the most processed, industrialized foods ever invented. And then there's the trendy, artisanal, hand-made soup that fans line up for hours to try.

But in Japan, ramen isn't just for eating: There are entire museums devoted to it. Yokohama, a short train ride from Tokyo, has one museum for instant ramen and another for handmade ramen, and both offer samples to taste or take home.

At the Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum (the extra u gives the word a retro feel), you'll find nine shops showcasing different styles of ramen. The English brochure helpfully describes the soup at each, noting whether the noodles are straight, curly or wrinkled, and how thick they are using a five-point scale. The richness of the broth is also rated on a five-point scale.

At each shop, you order and pay for your ramen in an old-fashioned way, via a ticket vending machine in front with photos on the buttons. Some varieties are offered in small portions so you can try more than one type, although for some visitors, one small



Instant ramen soup packages on display at the Cup Noodle Museum in Yokohama, Japan. The museum honours the inventor of instant ramen. LINDA LOMBARDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ IF YOU GO

Ramen museums

Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum and Cup Noodle Museum in Yokohama, are about 45 minutes by train from Tokyo.

Websites that have directions in English: raumen.co.jp/english/ and cupnoodles-museum.jp/english/



portion will be enough. If you can't tell, ask the staff which button is mini-ramen (the term is the same in both languages).

If you're weary of foodie seriousness about what is, after all, simple noodle soup, the antidote is just a short train or subway



An exhibit at Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum, a food theme park devoted to ramen noodles, depicting storefronts in a re-created 1958 shopping district. LINDA LOMBARDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ride away: Yokohama also has a branch of the Cup Noodle Museum.

Where Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum is a food theme park for adults, Cup Noodle Museum is designed for kids. The small print on its brochure notes that it's formally named the Momofuku Ando Instant Ramen Museum after the inventor of instant ramen. Run by an educational foundation that Ando started, the fun here is designed to support some high-minded goals with exhibits about creativity and invention.

Exhibits include a reproduction of the modest shack where Ando invented Chicken Ramen, a display of the astonishing number of varieties of instant ramen that the Nissin Food Products company has produced since then, and a food

court called Noodles Bazaar. And there's a play area where kids can experience the Cup Noodle manufacturing process from the point of view of the noodle.

The main attraction here, though, is the make-your-own section. For a separate fee for a timed ticket, kids (or adults) can make their own personal Cup Noodle, decorating the cup, then putting in the noodles and choosing the soup and toppings. Watch the lid get sealed and the whole cup shrink-wrapped, then your creation is enclosed in a cool protective package that you pump air into to cushion it on the trip home. A warning: Cup Noodle Museum, educational as it is, is extremely popular with school groups and is packed with them some weekdays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Being all over the place can be a good thing.

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TRAVEL NOTES FROM FINDING THE LOWEST AIRFARES TO TIPS FOR WEST HOLLYWOOD

New: All-natural travel kits

The Canadian-made Consonant natural skin-care line has launched a couple of new travel kits full of miniatures of some of their top products. The company uses organic



botanical ingredients, affirming that what goes on your body also goes in your body. Includes The Perfect

Sunscreen, one of the smoothest, most non-greasy, mineral-based sunscreens out there. Pictured set, \$225. Visit ConsonantSkincare.com.

Bucket List: West Hollywood

While L.A. can be overwhelming, choosing West Hollywood as your home base will make it manageable. There's a lot to do: Check out the up-and-coming comedians at the Comedy Store on Sunset Strip or prop up a corner of the bar at the Chateau Marmont. Pop into the Standard Hotel (pictured) for a dip in



the pool and some lunch or play Spot the Celebrity at the Mondrian Hotel patio bar.

Tip: Find the lowest airfares

It's sometimes not where you search for cheap flights, but when. The moment you see an airline sale, wait until the next afternoon to hunt for a



fare, because all the airline's competitors will be

trying to match the previous day's sale price. The sweet spot for buying domestic tickets is 55 days in advance. Best day to fly? Tuesday, because there is less demand for seats and the prices are lower. DOUG WALLACE

Skydive without leaving Earth

iFLY

Experience weightlessness at iFly Toronto wind tunnel

There is a place just outside Toronto where humans can fly.

And flying makes a nice birthday gift, especially for a 12-year-old playing hooky from school.

Suzanne Lyon took her son, Jack, out of school last week to skydive indoors at iFly Toronto in Oakville, Ont.

Jack falls into the vertical wind tunnel where air rushes from below up to 250 km/h, or "a couple hurricanes" worth of wind.

Then he floats for a minute or two, like a skydiver would do after jumping from a plane. The experience is similar to free falling without the crippling fear that can come

with hurtling toward Earth at breakneck speeds.

He dips, dives and sometimes crashes into the wall of the cylindrical chamber with instructor Adrian Uracz standing nearby, sometimes pulling him back and helping him.

He looks a little like a bird learning to fly.

Jack says it was "amazing" and "extraordinary" and "awesome."

But the actual experience is difficult to describe.

"I don't know what to say," says the boy of few words. But he smiles a lot.

Uracz is more verbal. "It's such a different feeling from what you would have in your everyday life."

Later the instructor shows the rookies how to really fly in the chamber, twisting, turning, flipping and floating at will, as if he lives in a world without gravity. Flyers can learn these tricks over time through iFly's academy with coaches like Uracz.

The facility opened last May and there are 23 others like it around the world, but a wind tunnel in Montreal is the only other one in Canada.

Four giant fans at the top of the building powered by 350-horsepower engines act



Jeff Finkler, left, is guided by an instructor while trying indoor skydiving at iFly Toronto.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IF YOU GO

What you need to know

- iFly Toronto is open daily. Flights begin at \$72.
- There are risks involved and pregnant women and those who have dislocated their shoulders previously shouldn't participate.
- Children aged four and up can fly but must be accompanied by an adult.
- Find out more at: ifly-toronto.com

like a vacuum and suck air up, before sending it back down nearby vents to recirculate. The flyer floats in the middle of this vacuum.

Both Jack and his mother have come before.

Her husband surprised Suzanne Lyon one date night with a trip to iFly — she thought they were going mini-golfing. They returned to let Jack fly and expect they'll be back many times in the future.

Maybe he'll never be able to put the experience into words, but if he can, it will surely involve a lot of superlatives.

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12-year-old Jack

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COURT

Photog banned from Hernandez trial

A photographer for a Boston TV station was banned from the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez on Thursday after he acknowledged following jurors to their parking spots, which the judge said was prohibited.

On the third day of deliberations, Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh banned Robert Cusanelli of WHDH-TV from the courthouse.

"He cannot come into this building or be driving a WHDH vehicle for the purpose of doing reporting work on this case," Garsh said from the bench after Cusanelli testified under oath.

Two jurors informed the court Thursday morning that they saw someone watching them in a Ford Explorer. One took a picture of its licence plate.

Cusanelli was questioned



Aaron Hernandez
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in court by a lawyer for the station and acknowledged that he followed the jurors, saying he made the decision to do so on his own to find out where jurors were parking. He said he didn't talk to the jurors, didn't take their

picture or write down their licence plate numbers and at the time thought he wasn't doing anything wrong.

"I see now that it was a mistake," he said.

Hernandez is charged with the June 2013 shooting death of Odin Lloyd, who was dating his fiancée's sister. He was found shot six times in an industrial park less than a mile from Hernandez's home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jordan Spieth receives a loud ovation upon scoring a birdie to end his first round of the Masters on Thursday in Augusta, Ga.
ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Spieth in familiar spot at top

MASTERS

21-year-old has three-stroke lead after the first round

Jordan Spieth was already one of the hottest players on the PGA Tour.

He showed no signs of letting up at the Masters.

There are still three rounds to go, but the 21-year-old Spieth looks very much like the one to beat after opening with an 8-under 64 and making a serious run at the major championship scoring record Thursday.

If not for a blunder at the par-5 15th, where Spieth's tee shot left him perfectly positioned for no worse than a birdie but he wound up making bogey, he very well could have been the first player to shoot 62 at one of golf's biggest events.

As it was, Spieth came up just short of the record, which is 63, but can't complain about a three-shot lead heading to Friday.

Ernie Els, Justin Rose, Jason Day and Charley Hoffman all shot 67. Sergio Garcia and Russell Henley were another stroke back with 68s.

"To make nine birdies out

there, that's a dreamy round for me," Spieth said. "It was a lot of fun."

None of this should be a surprise. Not the way he was playing leading up to Augusta, having won, finished second, and lost in a playoff in his three previous tournaments. Not the way he played a year ago in his Masters debut, leading on Sunday before fading down the stretch to finish in a tie for second behind Bubba Watson.

Maybe it was the experience last time that kept from getting too worked up about his brilliant start. There's an endless list of players who led a major after the opening round and were long gone by Sunday.

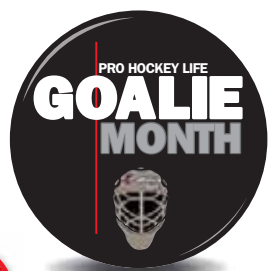
But it would be a huge surprise if Spieth fades away.

"I was leading last year at one point by a couple of shots on Sunday," he recalled. "It didn't go my way. I know how many things can happen in a major championship. I'll try to learn from last year and stay patient these next three rounds."

Meanwhile, Tiger Woods displayed improvement in his return to competitive golf. He's still got a lot of work to do, however, before he's ready to compete for his 15th major championship.

Woods finished with a 1-over 73.

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Malkin defiant about Pens' playoff hopes

NHL

Former MVP is sure postseason awaits despite growing cracks

Evgeni Malkin wasn't making a guarantee as much as he was trying to provide his sagging team with a needed dose of swagger.

Don't let the messy last month fool you. The 2012 NHL MVP believes the fading Pittsburgh Penguins are headed to the post-

season. Just like they have every spring since the Russian forward joined Sidney Crosby in turning the franchise around nearly nine years ago. "I know we play playoffs," Malkin said Thursday.

Even with an overextended defence missing injured star Kris Letang and veteran Christian Ehrhoff. Even with an ugly 3-9-2 stretch over the last month that has all the earmarks of an ugly collapse. Even with the surging Ottawa Senators now battling the Pens for that playoff spot.

Last Malkin checked, everybody starts the playoffs 0-0. What

better way to wipe out the unsavoury aftertaste of an uneven and sometimes bizarre season than packaging wins over the New York Islanders on Friday and Buffalo Sabres on Saturday to head into the playoffs on a high?

"I've played here a long time," Malkin said. "It's the first time (I've gone through this), but we need just win the next two games." Maybe, but at this point winning one is hard enough. The Penguins have dropped four straight and missed a chance to ease any anxiety when they let a 3-0 lead evaporate in an

overtime loss to the Senators on Tuesday night.

It marked the fourth time in the last two weeks Pittsburgh couldn't clamp down after going up by at least two goals. Not the best way to make a case for the post-season. "We've allowed teams to dig their way back into games too often," defenceman Ben Lovejoy said. "We need to never let that happen again." Never might be asking a little too much. At this point, the Penguins would settle for it not happening over the weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sidney Crosby scored 10 seconds into Pittsburgh's game Tuesday, but the Pens still lost in overtime. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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April 10

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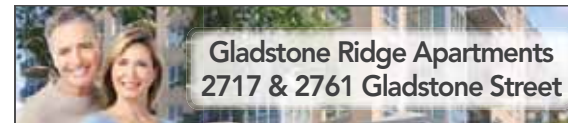
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Ready in

Prep time: 15

Cook time: 35

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Lightly coat a 9- x 13-inch casserole dish with vegetable spray.

2. Dust the chicken with the flour. In a large skillet lightly coated with cooking spray, add 2 tsp of the vegetable oil and set over medium heat. Add the chicken and sauté for about 8 minutes or until browned on all sides. Place in the casserole dish.

3. Wipe and respray the skillet, add the remaining 2 tsp of vegetable oil. Add the onion and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms and sauté for 8 minutes or until the mushrooms are no longer wet. Add the bell pepper and sauté for 4 minutes.

4. Whisk together the soy sauce, hoisin sauce, water, garlic, ginger, sesame oil and rice vinegar in a small bowl. Add to the vegetables and cook for 1 minute. Pour over the chicken and bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the chicken is done. Garnish with sesame seeds and cilantro if using. Serve over rice or noodles.



Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb skinless boneless chicken thighs (about 6 thighs)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups sliced onion
- 4 cups sliced button mushrooms
- 1 1/3 cups sliced yellow or red bell pepper
- 1 1/2 tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 1/2 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tbsp water
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 tsp finely chopped ginger
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp rice vinegar
- 1 tsp toasted sesame seeds
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro (optional)

Nutrition per serving

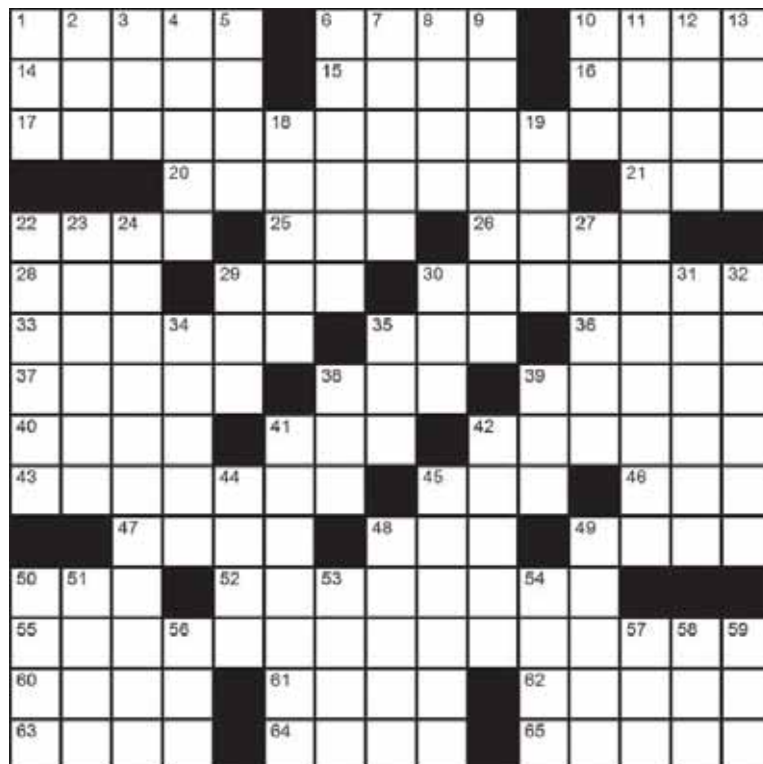
- Calories 264
- Protein 23 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 1.2 g
- Total fat 14.6 g
- Saturated fat 3.0 g
- Cholesterol 74 mg
- Sodium 270 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE
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ACROSS

- Upcoming comedy, "Paul _; Mall Cop 2" (2015)
- Mario Puzo character
- Bright fish
- Oddity
- With: French
- Other
- Nova Scotia: The Lighthouse Route is one scenic drive ...and this is another: 2 wds.
- Quebec city/river
- Edible tuber
- Donkey/horse
- Bronze Roman money
- Headland
- _ _ budget
- Docs
- "Remedy" on Global TV star, Diego _ (Trivia! He won the first VJ Search for Much-Music in 1995)
- MLS properties
- Gives birth
- Collector's suffix
- Cook's covering
- Criticize
- Fibre-_ cable
- CNN's "The Wonder List with Bill _"
- Clear
- "Anchors _" (1945)
- Triangular bone
- Canadian hoops org.
- Slade's "Take Me Back _"
- Ink stain
- Scottish writer Josephine

- _ _ the kill
- Hearer
- Cameron _ (Canadian actor/TV host)
- Subject of "Lord of War" (2005) starring Nicolas Cage: 3 wds.
- Stare, stunned-style

- Q. "Is ' _ ' way to abbreviate Dublin's land?" A. "Indeed."
- Serf of Sparta
- US IDs
- Actress Barbara
- Acadian singer Ms. Butler

DOWN

- Pre-A.D. indicator
- Sweetie
- The Altar constellation
- Clean the fruit
- Attire for Augustus
- Appraises
- Brick wall plants
- Memphis, _

- Water-related Titan
- Poetic preposition
- Sony gaming system
- Laos' locale
- Leadership position
- "My word!"
- Salmon sort
- Punk rocker hairstyle
- Closed
- Host of CBC Radio 2 program The Signal (Trivia! She is a Much-Music alum and has a cameo in Corey Hart's "Sunglasses at Night" video): 2 wds.
- Straight-billed marsh bird
- Fellows
- Room cooler
- Puzzling problem
- Perfumed pouch
- _ _ Tracy, Quebec
- Milliner's creation
- Liveliness
- Mouse muncher
- Canadian musician Ms. MacMaster
- Chasm
- 1978 movie for Canadian actress Genevieve Bujold
- American retailer, _ Marcus
- Two-plus-one's sum
- Chris de Burgh's "The Lady _"
- Shelled things
- Woeful word
- Alimentation
- Couche_ Inc. (Canadian convenience store company)
- Will_ _ _wisp
- Library fare, briefly
- Ms. Landry
- Polka's pal
- Ordinal suffix

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone in a position of authority can and will help you out over the next 24 hours, if you ask them to. Not even an Aries can do it all by themselves.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you have a good idea today you must let others know about it, especially those who can support you and guide you. Sharing what you know is always good business.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Family matters are under excellent stars at the moment, so if you need to get back on good terms with a loved one now is the time to kiss and make up.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will have to deal with a difficult person today but are advised not to do anything that could turn them against you. According to the planets you will need this person's assistance very soon.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will discover something about a friend or work colleague today that answers a lot of questions. What you discover might be amusing but you are advised to keep it to yourself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to make your peace with someone you have fallen out with in recent weeks. The planets suggest that if you make the effort you won't be disappointed.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Open up and reveal your true feelings today. If you are not happy with something, or someone, then say so. Don't make it hard for others to read your mood.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone older and wiser will give you some valuable advice today and if you are smart you will take it. You may be doing well but you could be doing even better.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Others may say you are being too careful, and maybe you are, but don't change your ways to please them. Looked at from another perspective, they're taking too many chances.

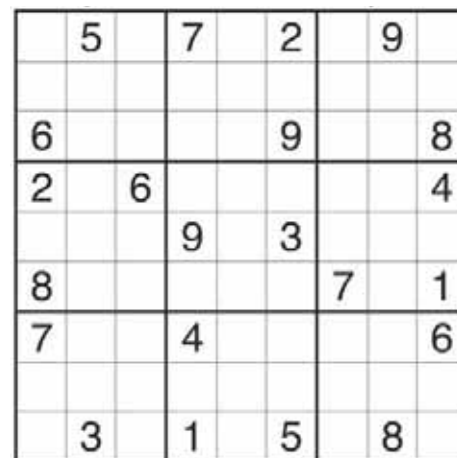
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may want to help someone in need but some people prefer to suffer in silence than admit they need assistance. Respect their wishes.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be sad that something, or someone, is going out of your life but don't shed too many tears. The good news is that something, or someone, even better will come along to fill it.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your viewpoint on an important issue will change dramatically over the next 48 hours — you may even end up at the opposite end of the opinion spectrum to where you are now.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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